

BIRTHS

Birth data are among the most requested items from the State Center for Health Statistics. Births and birth rates are shown in the following publications:

"BABY Book"

Vital Statistics, Volume 1

"Health Statistics Pocket Guide"

Birth and Infant Mortality Statistics, Volumes 1 and 2

Birth rates are expressed as births per 1,000 population, unless they are called fertility rates. Fertility rates are expressed as births per 1,000 females in an age group or per 1,000 total females of childbearing ages (15-44).

DEATHS

Deaths and death rates are shown in the following SCHS publications:

Vital Statistics, Volume 1

Leading Causes of Mortality, Volume 2

"Health Statistics Pocket Guide"

Birth and Infant Mortality Statistics, Volumes 1 and 2

Detailed Mortality Statistics

Death rates are expressed as deaths per 1,000 population for total deaths or deaths per 100,000 population for age-specific or cause-specific death rates.

MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES

There is very limited information available on marriages and even less on divorces. Data are only available on an occurrence basis since the two persons involved may have different counties of residence. Marriages and divorces and rates are shown in *North Carolina Vital Statistics: Volume 1*. Both rates are expressed per 1,000 population.

ABORTIONS

Abortions are reported to SCHS by the abortion providers. These reports show no names and only limited demographic information. Abortions and abortion rates are shown in *North Carolina Reported Abortions* and abortion rates are given in the "Health Statistics Pocket Guide."

Abortion rates are per 1,000 females in specified age groups as well as all women of childbearing ages (15-44).

PREGNANCIES

Pregnancies are a composite of births, abortions and fetal deaths (stillbirths of greater than 20 weeks gestation). These three components are totaled to produce the number of reported pregnancies. Stillbirths of less than 20 weeks gestation are not included in this number, and there is no feasible way to collect these events. Pregnancy rates are shown in the "Health Statistics Pocket Guide" as well as *North Carolina Reported Abortions*.